

THE BOY SCOUTS of BLACK WOLF and B. P.

ROMANCE, Utility, Outdoor Life, Discipline and the Teachings of Manhood Are Included in the Fascinating Semi-Military Organizations to Which the Boys of America and Britain Are Flocking by Thousands.

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"Y E! Yek! Yek!" As this cry echoed along the slopes of Morningside Park a boy whose head was surmounted by a broad brimmed hat of peculiar design halted suddenly upon the stone steps, and, screening his eyes from the sun, peered in every direction.

"Grrao! Grrao!" he replied.

From behind a clump of bushes stepped a lad of fourteen or thereabout in a khaki uniform and saluted with military precision.

"What troop, Flying Eagle?" asked he of the steps.

"First New York," was the answer of the Bush Boy.

"What's yours, Tiger?"

"Thirty-third London," was the response.

"Shake hands," said Flying Eagle. "Glad to see you. You must know B. P."

"Know him?" was the answer. "Why, I came over with him."

"H'm," remarked Flying Eagle, after a moment's hesitation. "Say, you're a lucky scout. I've been around myself some. I've camped with Black Wolf."

Now, this does not happen to be a meeting in the jungle, far from the haunts of civilized man, but between two boys in a New York city park who had never before seen each other. They were bound together by the tie of a new order of adolescent knight- hood which within the last two years has spread around the globe since its organization in England by Sir Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, "B. P.," the hero of Mafeking.

Four hundred thousand boy scouts are enrolled in Great Britain alone, while troops and patrols of the order are to be found everywhere in the world nearly, and the Boy Scouts of America, under the leadership of Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton ("Black Wolf"), number one hundred thousand and are increasing day by day.

There are in the United States ten million boys, it is estimated, varying in age from twelve to eighteen years, who are eligible to the privilege of being Scouts. Judging by the energy which is displayed by the American organizers and by the enthusiasm of the youths themselves, it may be that before long a large proportion of them will be enrolled in this modern chivalry, for such it is under its novel, latter day guise.

Although it was suggested in time of war the boy scout movement is not primarily military, but is more devoted to ways of peace. Lieutenant General Baden-Powell, now on a tour in the interests of the movement, arrived recently in Vancouver and is expected in this city before long, never intended that it should be a drill corps, but rather that it should stimulate the romantic and the imaginative boy nature and substitute individual initiative for the hard and fast rules of tactics.

This movement, which is becoming so important a factor in the life of the young, practically had its origin at Mafeking, in South Africa, during the Boer War. Lieutenant General, then Colonel, Baden-Powell was besieged for 215 days in Mafeking, which he held with 1,200 men against a Boer army until he was relieved. The celebration over his gallant and successful defence gave to the English language a new word, "maffeking," used to denote public transports of delirious joy.

The siege itself brought into notice the boy scout. So manifold were the duties required of the little garrison and so extensive were the ravages of hunger and illness that the commander could ill spare able bodied men for orderlies and for messengers, and therefore he utilized boys who volunteered. These youthful defenders sped to their work on bicycles under the fire of the enemy and displayed such willingness and ability that Colonel Baden-Powell referred to them in his official report and since that time has been much interested in the development and progress of the boys.

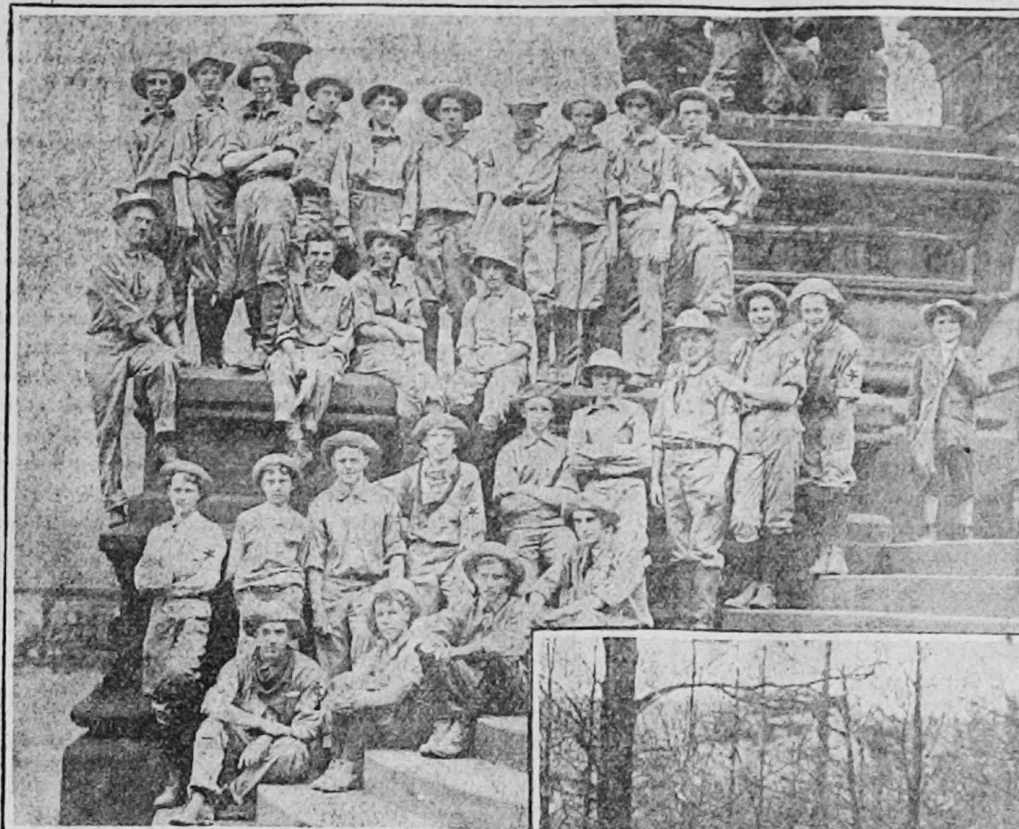
Taken Up in America.

He was impressed, too, as a thorough military man with the paucity of able bodied alert and intelligent men, and he reached the conclusion that the lack of early training and the neglect of many sports and pastimes had much to do with what he regarded as a sign of decline.

He publicly founded the Boy Scouts at Birkenhead, England, on January 24, 1908. Summing up the objects of the movement he stated that it was intended to make boys manly men, good and useful citizens, and not to train them as soldiers, but rather to avoid the bringing up of forty-six per cent of the boys of the nation without the knowledge of a useful occupation. The idea was received with enthusiasm in England, and now there are so many boy scouts in Great Britain that the organization is embarrassed in its efforts to keep control of the multitude of recruits which flock to its standard.

Mr. W. D. Boyce, of Chicago, who had seen something of their work, caused to be introduced last April in the House of Representatives a bill to incorporate in Washington the Boy Scouts of America, which is the official body here in touch with the corps founded by the distinguished British soldier. The charter was issued in June. The Boy Scouts of America have no affiliation with a body of almost similar name which more recently has been founded. The organization already had something of a nucleus from which to work, as in 1900 and in 1901 Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton, the American naturalist and apostle of the gospel of the outdoor life for boys, had started his Woodcraft Indians, a society which had for its basis the following of the free and untrammelled life of the aboriginal inhabitants of this country. Mr. Dan Beard at this period also incorporated a body of youths called the Pioneers, or The Sons of Daniel Boone.

Mr. Seton in 1904 visited Lieutenant General Baden-Powell and asked him to co-operate in popularizing a movement which would make for the upbuilding of the character of the boys of this generation. The officer, after much mature reflection, started the Boy Scout movement, and wrote a handbook for it which from the first was well received and has become the



U. S. B. C.—Cleveland "Buckeye No. 1" and "The Gypsy"—These and Two Patrols from Central Y, "The Stag" and "Wolf," Made Trip to Ohio River and Return, Walking More Than 225 Miles.



Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A. Training School, Springfield, Mass.

vade mecum of hundreds of thousands of sturdy followers.

The compendium of the Boy Scouts of America includes much of the Baden-Powell edition, with which has been incorporated the Birch Bark Roll prepared by the American naturalist.

The committee on organization of the Boy Scouts of America, which is now hard at work, consists of Mr. Seton, chairman; Mr. Lee F. Hamner, secretary; Mr. George D. Pratt, treasurer, and Messrs. Jacob A. Rids, W. D. Boyce, Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Dan Beard, Edgar M. Robinson and Colin H. Livingstone. It is well financed, and a business man who does not wish his name known in that connection is devoting large sums every month to paying the necessary expenses. The Boy Scouts of America have headquarters at No. 124 East Twenty-eighth street, where the official business is conducted. The committee already has troops in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and cities of such rank, and has a large representation throughout this State and New Jersey and Massachusetts. Texas, that home of the rangers, has taken up the movement with alacrity, and the citizens of Fort Worth have become as enthusiastic over the perfecting of the organization as the young scouts themselves.

As there were in days of old degrees of knight- hood so there are in scout- hood. The first degree is that of tenderfoot. One who is less than twelve years of age cannot be initiated into its mysteries. Before taking it the candidate must know the scout laws and signs the composition of the flag of his country and how to fly it; how to tie the following knots—Reef, sheet bend, clove hitch, bowline, middleman's, fisherman's, and sheepshank.

The Laws of the Scouts.

First are the laws of the scouts, which are as follows:—

1. A scout's honor is to be trusted.
2. A scout never to break his honor by telling a lie, or by not carrying out an order exactly when trusted on his honor to do so, he may be directed to hand over his scout badge, and never to wear it again. He may also be directed to cease to be a scout.
3. A scout is loyal to his country, his officers, his parents and his employers. He must stick to them through thick and thin against any one who is their enemy or who even talks badly of them.
4. A scout's duty is to be useful and to help others. He must be prepared at any time to save life or to help injured persons. And he must try his best to do a good turn to somebody every day.
5. A scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs.
6. A scout must never be a snob. A snob is one who looks down upon another because he is poorer or who is poor and resents another because he is rich. A scout accepts the other man as he finds him and makes the best of him.
7. A scout is courteous. That is, he is polite to all, but especially to women and children and old people and invalids, cripples, etc. And he must not take any reward for being helpful and courteous.
8. A scout is a friend to animals. He should save them as far as possible from pain and should not kill any animal unnecessarily. Killing an animal for food is allowable.
9. A scout obeys orders of his parents, patrol leader or scout master without question. Even if he gets an order he does not like, he must do as soldiers and sailors do; he must carry it out all the same because it is his duty; and after he has done it he can come and state any reasons against it; but he must carry out the order at once. That is discipline.
10. A scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances. When he gets an order he should obey it cheerfully and readily, not in a slow, hangdog sort of way. Scouts never grumble at hardships, nor whine at each other, nor swear when put out. The punishment for swearing or using bad language is for each offence a mug of cold water to be poured down the offender's sleeve by the other scouts. It was the pun-



Scouting.



Gen. Baden-Powell. (From the Graphic.)



Ernest Thompson Seton.

ishment invented by the old scout, Captain John Smith three hundred years ago.

"3. A scout is thrifty; that is, he saves every penny he can and puts it into the bank, so that he may have money to keep himself when out of work, and thus not make himself a burden to others, or that he may have money to give away to others when they need it."

A Law of Honor.

What the Bushido was to the Samurai of Japan, what the laws of honor are to the American Indians the code of the boy scouts is to them. The youngsters learn it as squires of the Middle Ages did the regulations which prepared them to be knights. What the word of an officer and a gentleman is in the army and navy are the laws and the laws of the scouts. The candidates are questioned by their superiors, the scout masters, on the points of this code and then at the close of the month, if the tenderfoot has shown that he knows and understands what is required of him, he is permitted to take the scout's oath. Its words are:—

- "On my honor I promise to do my best.
- "1. To do my duty to God and country.
- "2. To help other people at all times.
- "3. Obey the scout law."

It is an oath soon taken, but its observance is considered the subject of earnest thought, and a violation of it is regarded among the scouts as a serious offence.

Once a boy has passed his tenderfoot degree he has obligations which he must observe with extreme fidelity, for upon his mind is impressed the idea, "Such is the law of the scouts."

The salute of the order is given by holding up three fingers of the right hand with the thumb and the little finger held down and touching each other at the tips, meaning thereby the trilogy of the law of the scouts. This is the sign given by scouts meeting for the first time. The badge is a conventionalized fleur-de-lis, which also suggests the three points, and beneath the emblem is a turned up scroll made to suggest the smiling lips lifted at the corners and bearing the words, "Be prepared." All the traditions of mediaeval heraldry are suggested in the device, which originated in England and has been adopted as the standard American badge.

Having passed the tests for a scout, the tenderfoot realizes a cherished ambition, for now he is permitted to don the uniform. The standard garb of the British Boy Scouts consists of abbreviated khaki breeches known as "shorts," which leave the knees bare; stockings of wool turned down and brown or black shoes or brown "sneakers," as the cloth rubber soled footgear is called. The shirt is of flannel and in winter a sweater may be worn. The belt is of brown leather with buckles of dull metal. The head is covered with a khaki colored hat with flat brim and chin strap. A staff unshod and thus adapted to feeling the way about quietly is carried, and a haversack of khaki color. The scouts also have knives attached to hangers and hitched to swivels on their belts, and scoutmasters and patrol leaders have whistles on a cord about the neck.



Ambulance Patrol.

such meritorious services as assisting the police at personal risk, for on more than one occasion in London troops of boy scouts have aided in keeping back the crowds by presenting a solid front with their staves crossed forward and receiving the impact of the throng like veterans.

The gilt medal of merit may be achieved also for twenty good deeds, such as stopping runaway horses or assisting at fires or doing various good turns with out being paid for them. "Good turns" are of various kinds. Patrols of boy scouts have even suddenly appeared to help an old woman take in her washing. Another patrol aided a man whose automobile seemed hopelessly mired in a country road.

The most important work in the order is done by the scout masters, who may be youths or men of mature age, who train the scouts and give instruction in all the degrees which are useful and take charge of them on scouting parties. Scouts must always address these officials as "Sir."

There are scout commissioners who inspect troops of scouts and give suggestions to scout masters for the good of the service, and over all is the Chief Scout, who in England is Lieutenant General Baden-Powell and in this country Mr. Seton.

The Boy Scouts of America are strictly a non-sectarian organization, and enrolled in its legions are all shades of religious belief. Such agencies as the Young Men's Christian Association, various boys' clubs of Catholics and the Young Men's Hebrew Association are interested in the movement. It happens that for the present the headquarters are in the building of the International Y. M. C. A. The oath to God and country or to God and the King, as it is in Great Britain, is considered by the founder to be sufficiently comprehensive and there is absolutely no distinction made with respect to creeds.

Discipline is largely vested in courts of honor, each composed of a scout master and two patrol leaders, which decide upon rewards, awards and punishments.

It is the object of the entire movement to promote the scout spirit, to bring the boys in touch with the manly virtues, to interest them in nature, to develop their powers of observation and interest them in lines of endeavor which will prepare them for useful and honorable callings.

Mr. Seton's Plans.

"This is a time," wrote Mr. Seton in his Birch Bark Roll, which has been incorporated with the Baden-Powell handbook for use in this country, "when the whole nation, turning toward the outdoor life, seeking in it the physical regeneration so needful for continued national existence, is waking to the fact, so long known to thoughtful men, that those who live the staid life of the city, who live the life of the office, who live the life of the shop, however, of the ignorance in those times begot. Sport is the great incentive to outdoor life; nature study is the intellectual side of sport."

"I should like to lead this whole nation into a way of living outdoors for at least a month each year, reviving and expanding a custom which as far back as Moses was deemed essential to the national well-being."

"Not long ago a benevolent rich man impressed with this idea chartered a steamer and took some hundreds of staid boys up to the Catskills for a day in the woods. They were duly landed and told to 'go and have a glorious time.' It was like gathering up a netful of catfish and throwing them into the woods, saying, 'Go and have a glorious time.' The boys sailed around and suddenly disappeared. An hour later they were found in groups under the bushes smoking cigarettes, shooting craps and playing cards—the only things they knew. Thus the well meaning rich man learned that it was not enough to take them out of doors. We must teach them to enjoy it."

For the boys who have had the benefit of country life it is easier to come in touch with the scouting period than it is for those who know little beyond the shrewd insight into life which they may gather in the tenement districts of New York and London. From the east side of New York at the present time, however, hundreds of scouting parties are going to the woods of New Jersey and the Palisades on explorations and are returning after their camping and scouting and signalling refreshed in mind and body and with their intellectual faculties alert.

The principles which are kept in view, although the Boy Scout movement is essentially for recreation, are self-government, the magic of the camp fire, woodcraft pursuits, honors by standards, personal decorations for personal achievements, the heroic ideal and the poetry, the romance and the picturesqueness which fire the imagination in all phases of life if the mind is properly awakened and stimulated.

"The boys of the nation," writes Lieutenant General Baden-Powell in his handbook for the British Scouts, "are full of enthusiasm and spirit and only want their heads to be turned in the right direction to become good and useful citizens. This splendid material is being allowed to run to waste—nay, worse than that, it is allowed to become harmful to the nation, simply for want of education, for want of a hand to guide them at the crisis of their lives when they are at the crossroads where their futures branch off for good or evil."

"The present authorized scheme of education in our schools includes plenty of book work, but no development of the quality that counts, namely, character, which, after all, is of the first importance. Not thousands but hundreds of thousands of boys in our great cities, after an education in reading sufficient to enable them to devour the horrors of the Police News and in arithmetic to make their football wagers, are being left to drift into the ranks of the 'hoodlums' and the 'wasters' without any attempt to stay them. But they receive no teaching in resourcefulness, civility, thrift, citizenship and patriotism."

"The key to successful education is not so much to teach the pupil as to get him to learn for himself. The subject to be instilled must be made to appeal—yet must lure your fish with a succulent worm, not with a bit of hard, dry biscuit. . . . That was my object in suggesting the gift of 'scouting' for the pill of education in manliness and good citizenship but I had no idea when I did so a year ago that it would meet with the response which it has done. It has been adopted by all the best associations for boys and by a large number of schools. It has also been used on more than one of His Majesty's ships and on several units in the army."

General Baden-Powell, on his arrival at Vancouver in the interests of the movement, said he was glad to see that it was obtaining such a hold in the United States, although he thought that in some phases it had too much of the drill idea in it—a tendency which the Boy Scouts of America, in their wish to follow the British model, have sought especially to avoid.

What applies to the movement in Great Britain can also be said of the Boy Scouts of America, who are daily looking to the standards of the new idea throughout the United States.

The Qualifications.

From tenderfoot the neophyte has passed to the degree of second class scout, for which these are the qualifications:—

1. Have at least one month's service as a tenderfoot.
2. Elementary first aid and bandaging.
3. Signalling, elementary knowledge of semaphore or Morse alphabet.
4. Track half a mile in twenty-five minutes; or, if in a town, describe satisfactorily the contents of one store window out of four, observed for one minute each.
5. Go a mile in twelve minutes at "scout's pace."
6. Lay and light a fire, using not more than two matches.
7. Cook a quarter of pound of meat and two potatoes without cooking utensils other than the regulation billy.
8. Have at least twenty-five cents in a savings bank.
9. Know the sixteen principal points of the compass.

Signalling is done largely by flags and the scouts have formulae for remembering the Morse code. The "billy" or "billy can" referred to in the regulations is a combination of the can and skillet so arranged as to be compactly carried.

After it has been adjudged that the scout of the second class has passed all his qualifications he is eligible to promotion as a first class scout. These then are the tests which he must meet in order to attain that position:—

1. Swim fifty yards. (N. B.—This may be omitted where the doctor certifies that bathing is dangerous to the boy's health, in which case he must run a mile in eight minutes, or perform some equivalent selected by the scoutmaster.)
2. Must have fifty cents at least in the savings bank.
3. Signalling. Send and receive a message either in semaphore or Morse, sixteen letters per minute.
4. Go on foot or row a boat alone to a point seven miles away and return again; or, if conveyed by any vehicle or animal, go to a distance of fifteen miles and back and write a short report on it. It is preferable that he should take two days over it.
5. Describe or show the proper means for saving life in case of two of the following accidents (allotted by the examiners):—Fire, drowning, runaway carriage, sewer gas, ice breaking. Or bandage an injured patient or revive a fainting or drowned person.
6. Cook satisfactorily two of the following dishes, as may be directed:—Porridge, bacon, hunter's stew. Or skin and cook a rabbit or pluck and cook a bird. Also make a "damper" of half a pound of flour or a "twist" baked on a thick stick.
7. Read a map correctly, and draw an intelligent rough sketch map. Point out a compass direction without the help of a compass.
8. Use an axe for felling or trimming light timber; or, as an alternative, produce an article of carpentry or joinery or metal work, made by himself satisfactorily.
9. Judge distance, size, numbers and height within 25 per cent error.
10. Train a tenderfoot for a month so that he may qualify as a second class scout.

The Badges of Merit.

Boys who have passed all these tests and have been duly enrolled as first class scouts have before them the opportunity of winning certain badges of merit. They may do this by qualifying by special training as members of the ambulance corps, firemen or cyclists, and also as clerks, signallers, pioneers, seamen, marksmen, masters at arms, stokers, gardeners, horsemen, electricians and musicians.

Shoulder lines are awarded to any scout who has attained six of these badges, and the exalted rank of "Silver Wolf" goes to the youth who has qualified in all fourteen of these extra requirements. Last of all, as precursors to these young knights as officers conferred by kings and queens, are the medals for meritorious deeds, to be worn only when conferred by the Chief Scout Black Wolf himself. The bronze cross with the red ribbon is for saving a life at the risk of his own; the silver cross (blue ribbon) for life saving without the element of personal danger; and the gilt medal of merit with white ribbon is conferred for